

Appl. No. 09/928,820  
Amdt. dated February 2, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 15 and 28, amend claims 13, 19, and 20 and add new claim 34 as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of an easily assembled and disassembled modular furniture system including a base frame, a

plurality of furniture modules including a first arm module, a second arm module, a seat suspension module and a backrest module, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion and said blade formation being substantially coaxial upon assembly so that said blade portion can be readily slidably disassembled from said sheath portion;

~~wherein~~ said sheath portion engages an exposed end of said blade portion, and upon assembly, said sheath portion ~~fully~~ encloses said blade formation; and

an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The bracket of claim 15 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

17. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 13 wherein said blade portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components to one another, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion configured so that upon assembly of said bracket, said sheath portion is in alignment with said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed relationship to each other; and

wherein said blade portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

20. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of a furniture system, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion being substantially coaxial with said blade portion so that said blade portion can be readily, slidably disassembled from said sheath portion;

wherein upon assembly of said bracket, said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed, contacting relationship to each other such that the corresponding adjacent components are in abutting relationship to each other, and said mounting formations are on the same relative side of the associated component.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Submitted) A bracket according to claim 19 wherein said mounting formation of said sheath portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion are in contact with each other upon assembly.

25. (Previously Submitted) A bracket according to claim 19 wherein upon assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

26. (Previously submitted) The bracket of claim 19 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

27. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 26 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 20 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

30. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 29 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

31. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 20 wherein said blade portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) A bracket for releasably securing components of an easily assembled and disassembled modular furniture system including a base frame, a plurality of furniture modules including a first arm module, a second arm module, a seat suspension module and a backrest module, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation;

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion and said blade formation being substantially coaxial upon

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assembly so that said blade portion can be readily slidably disassembled from said sheath portion;

said sheath portion engages an exposed end of said blade portion, and upon assembly, said sheath portion encloses said blade formation; and

said blade portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.